



F-35 Lightning II Program

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Second F-35B Lightning II Squadron Stood-Up

HEADQUARTERS U.S. MARINE CORPS (July 1, 2016) -- The U.S. Marine Corps stood up the second F-35B Lightning II squadron June 30, 2016, at a re-designation and change of command ceremony for Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 211.

The squadron transitioned from the AV-8B Harrier II and was re-designated from VMA-211 to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron (VMFA) 211. A change of command ceremony also occurred where Lt. Col. William Maples relinquished command to Lt. Col. Chad Vaughn.

The squadron flew its final flights with the Harrier May 6, 2016, and received its first two F-35B aircraft May 9, 2016. The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is a supersonic, multi-role, multi-service aircraft that represents a quantum leap in air dominance capability. It combines next-generation fighter characteristics of radar evading stealth, supersonic speed, fighter agility and advanced logistical support with the most powerful and comprehensive integrated sensor package of any fighter aircraft in history to provide unprecedented lethality and survivability.

The Harrier was designed to attack and destroy surface and air targets, escort helicopters, engage in air-to-air defense, provide reconnaissance and apply offensive and defensive support with its arsenal of missiles, bombs and an onboard 25 mm cannon.

Below are the links to the products from the VMFA 211 ceremony.

Photo Essay:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/202953/first-harrier-squadron-transitions-f-35bs>

B-Roll:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/472787/first-harrier-squadron-transitions-f-35b-b-roll>



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